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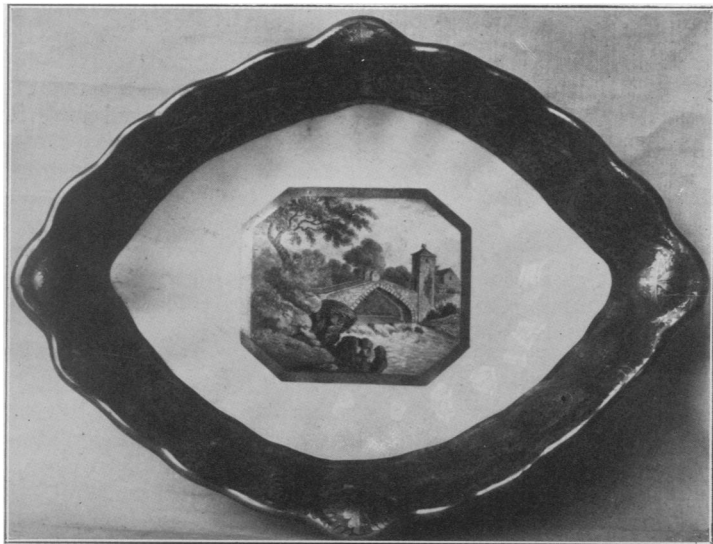
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NEW ACCESSIONS OF CERAMICS

As opportunities are presented, gaps in the collections of pottery and porcelain are filled, in order that they may become as comprehensive and representative as possible, so that ceramic and historical students may find here examples of every known ware. Recently a number of important additions have been made to these collections, including several examples of English salt-



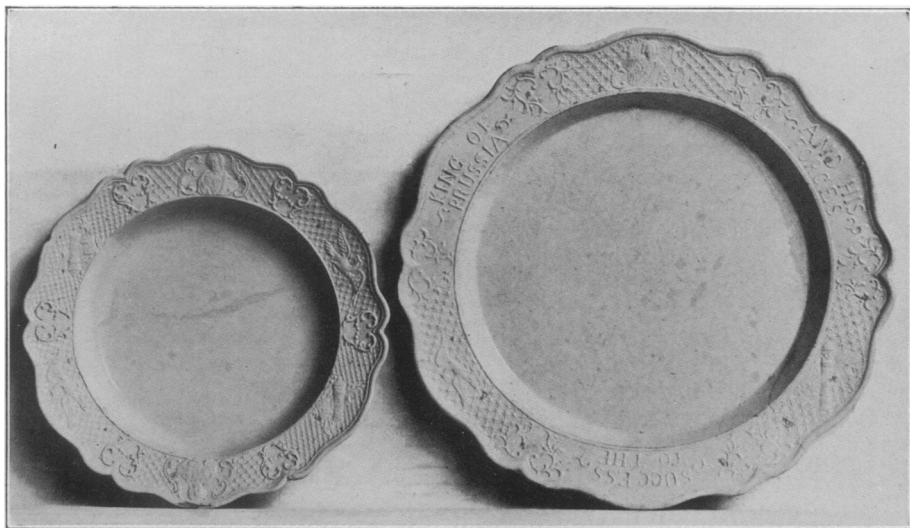
CROWN DERBY DISH, SOFT PORCELAIN
With Painted Landscape
About 1770

glaze, and rare specimens of old English soft paste, or bone china. Among these are two white salt-glaze dishes with relief decorations, consisting of medallion portraits of Frederick the Great, crossed cannon, eagles, and the inscription "Success to the King of Prussia and his Forces." This sentiment frequently appears on English pottery and porcelain of the latter half of the eighteenth century, although such pieces are at the present time exceedingly difficult to procure. They were issued probably to commemorate the invasion of Bohemia in 1757, when Frederick the Great defeated the Austrians at Prague. The illustration shows two white salt-glaze dishes produced about that time.

An interesting jug of brown salt-glazed stoneware, decorated in relief with the representation of a portion of Hogarth's "Midnight Modern Conversation,"



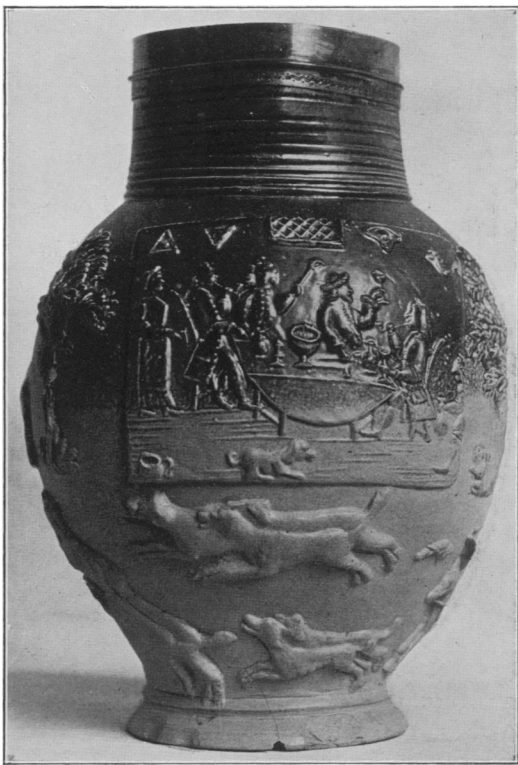
PORCELAIN PUNCH BOWL AND SUGAR BOWL
By Thomas Minton, about 1800



WHITE SALT-GLAZE PLATES
England, about 1758

has also recently been secured. Such jugs were made at Fulham about the same period, examples being known bearing the date of 1761.

The extensive collection of European and Oriental porcelains formed by the late Col. Philip Figyelmessy, while representing the United States as Consul at Demerara, British Guiana, was dispersed by public auction in Philadelphia on the third and fourth of May last. This collection was gathered together in South America and the West Indies between 1865 and 1885, before other ceramic collectors had turned their attention to that section. After the English acquired British Guiana in the early nineteenth century, large quantities of English porcelain were taken into that country by governors and naval and military commanders. In the eighteenth century, Oriental porcelain found its way there through the Dutch settlers. Much of the old English ware of the best period remains treasured by the descendants of the original owners or by their slaves, and Col. Figyelmessy, through his official position, was enabled to obtain many choice specimens. At the Figyelmessy sale the Museum secured some rare pieces of English porcelain, including a large punch bowl bearing an early mark of Thomas Minton (about 1800), an interesting dish of Crown Derby porcelain with painted landscape in the centre (see illustration), and several other examples of English bone china, ranging from about 1770 to 1820.



BROWN SALT-GLAZED JUG
Fulham, England, about 1760

A choice piece of Persian pottery has also been recently secured for the Museum. This is a large spherical jar of white glass-glazed pottery with under-glaze ornamentation in blue. Around the centre are circular medallions enclosing painted figures from which the faces have been omitted, which would seem to indicate that the decorator was a Mussulman of the Sunni sect, whose religious teachings prohibit the representation of graven images in their arts. This beautiful example of Persian art is attributed to the seventeenth century.

A special fund is now being raised for the purpose of securing other rare and desirable examples of Persian pottery which have recently been offered to the Museum, and contributions will be thankfully received from any of the friends of the Museum who are inclined to render assistance in the building up of this branch of art of the nearer Orient.

E. A. B.



NOTES

NEW BASEMENT ROOM—The capacious apartment directly beneath the main entrance has been finished and is now ready for the large model of the Centennial Exhibition buildings and the Pompeian views, which will be installed there at an early day. This newly prepared room adds 4600 square feet of exhibition space. A stone stairway has been built in the southeastern corner of the main floor, leading below. The apartment is amply lighted by two large windows and twenty-four double Welsbach gas burners.

PHOTOGRAPHS—The Bartol collection of colored photographs, illustrating the architecture and customs of all nations, has been removed to the new Basement room, where it has been arranged along the four sidewalls.

ORIENTAL RUGS—The J. Lees Williams collection of Oriental Rugs has been increased by ten rare examples of the sixteenth century, which have been temporarily hung in front of the pillars around the Rotunda.

CLASSICAL COLLECTIONS—The collections of Classical and Egyptian antiquities have been entirely reclassified in the Southwest Pavilion, under the superintendence of Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson. The cases have been relined and repainted and gold-lettered signs have been placed above them.

DOLLS—Miss Mary E. Sinnott has added some forty dolls to her interesting collection, which has been newly arranged in a suitable case in the Textile Room. The recent addition includes a series of twenty dolls from Rome, representing the Papal Court, showing the Pope surrounded by his attendants and guards. The costumes are supposed to be exact reproductions in miniature of the originals.

ORIENTAL PORCELAINS—From Mrs. Charles Platt the Museum has received a choice group of Chinese and Japanese porcelains. This gift materially increases the scope of the already extensive collection of Oriental ceramics, which has been thoroughly reclassified and relabeled, and has acquired an additional value by the weeding out of meretricious material. The examples of greatest rarity have been given prominent positions in the cases and the collection, as now scientifically arranged, will prove of the greatest assistance to ceramic students. An illustrated paper, showing some of the rarities of this collection, will appear in the next number of the BULLETIN.